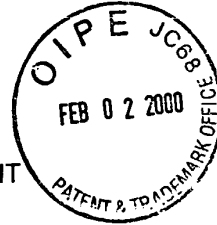


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 017309/0173

Applicant: Josef Otto RETTENMAIRER
Title: ANCILLARY FILTERING AGENT
Appl. No.: 09/380,731
Filing Date: 09/13/1999
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The relevance of documents A1, A5, A6, A7 and A11 through A13 is described in the present specification. English translations of the foreign documents are not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Documents A2, A3, A4 and A8 through A10 came to Applicant's attention during a search of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International search report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

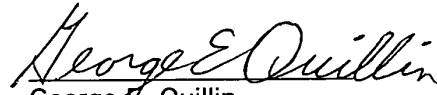
The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), before mailing of the first Office action.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

February 2, 2000
Date

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